

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JAMES SCOTT,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ANTHONY ANNUCCI, Commissioner, NYS
DOCCS; JOSEPH SERGEANT; JOHN DOE,
Officer in Charge; JOHN DOE, Escorting
Officer,

Defendants.

23-CV-6921 (LTS)

ORDER DIRECTING ORIGINAL
SIGNATURE AND PAYMENT OF FEES
OR IFP APPLICATION AND PRISONER
AUTHORIZATION

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, who is currently incarcerated at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a prisoner must either pay \$402.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$52.00 administrative fee – or, to request authorization to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application and a prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915.

If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s account.¹ *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed in this Court without prepayment of fees must therefore authorize the Court to withdraw these payments from his account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is incarcerated to deduct the \$350.00 filing fee from the prisoner’s account in installments and to send to the Court

¹ The \$52.00 administrative fee for filing a civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

certified copies of the prisoner's account statements for the past six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b).

Plaintiff submitted the complaint without the filing fees or a completed IFP application and prisoner authorization. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$402.00 in fees or submit the attached IFP application and prisoner authorization. If Plaintiff submits the IFP application and prisoner authorization, they should be labeled with docket number 23-CV-6921 (LTS).²

Moreover, Plaintiff submitted the complaint without his signature. Rule 11(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[e]very pleading, written motion, and other paper must be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney’s name – or by a party personally if the party is unrepresented.” *See also* Local Civil Rule 11.1(a). The Supreme Court has interpreted Rule 11(a) to require “as it did in John Hancock’s day, a name handwritten (or a mark handplaced).” *Becker v. Montgomery*, 532 U.S. 757, 764 (2001).

Plaintiff is directed to resubmit to the Court the signature page of the complaint, with an original signature, within thirty days of the date of this order. A copy of the signature page is attached to this order.

No summons shall be issued at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk’s Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed.

² Plaintiff is cautioned that if a prisoner files a federal civil action or appeal that is dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, the dismissal is a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). A prisoner who receives three “strikes” cannot file federal civil actions IFP as a prisoner, unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury, and he must pay the filing fees at the time of filing any new action.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 8, 2023
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief United States District Judge